

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of determining an increased likelihood of the presence of malignant melanoma in a subject comprising:

obtaining a sample from a subject at risk of having malignant melanoma;

contacting the sample with an antibody against GPC3;

quantitatively determining an amount of GPC3 detected in the sample;

comparing the detected amount of GPC3 to a control value determined using samples from healthy subjects;

concluding that an increased amount of GPC3 detected in the sample compared to the control value is indicative of an increased likelihood of the presence of malignant melanoma in the subject.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the sample comprises a body fluid or skin sample.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the sample is a body fluid comprising a serum sample.

12.-14. (Canceled)

15. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the method comprises:

detecting soluble or membrane-bound GPC3 protein using an antibody recognizing an extracellular domain of the protein along with additional clinically relevant melanoma tumor markers.